

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7:30pm at Westcott Cricket Club**

**Attendees**

CLlr Sue Pusey (Chairman) (SP), CLlr Grahame Pusey (GP), CLlr Sue Lacey (SL), CLlr Jo Hooper (JH), CLlr Kevin Ready (KR)  
Ward Councillor – CLlr Ashley Waite,

**Part One**

**91. Apologies**

None

**92. Open Forum**

No Updates

**93. Declarations of Interest**

None

**94. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

SP Thanked JH for taking the minutes at the previous meeting.

CLlrs resolved that the minutes were a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**95. Clerks Report**

BM reported that the new dog bins had been delivered to SP who was liaising with CLlr Waite to source a local contractor to install them

Other updates would be picked up under the individual agenda items.

**96. Reports.**

I. Burial Ground & Churchyard

No update

II. Website

BM reported that Westcott would need to sign up with a new registrar in order to keep the .gov.uk domain.

III. Village Green

No Update

IV. Charities

Caroline Wainman had contacted SP asking if TW still wanted to be a Trustee of the William Turner Charity

## WESTCOTT PARISH COUNCIL

Barry Malki – Clerk

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### V. Buckinghamshire Council

Cllr Waite noted the following points:

- The National Planning Policy Framework was published that day. One of the key items to note, was that Local Authorities were no longer required to publish housing numbers, which would likely have an impact on speculative planning applications. There is also new Neighbourhood Planning guidance, which will strengthen Neighbourhood Plans.
- The Bucks Council Budget is still going through the process, but there is likely to be a deficit of £8m, but shouldn't see more than a 5% increase in Council Tax.
- There was currently a great deal of cost-of-living support and information on the Bucks Council website.
- Bernie the Bus has had a successful year, and has included working with new stakeholders.
- The I'd Like To Borrow scheme has had a slow start but is picking up.
- There will be an energy saving event being run with the Community Board in Feb.

### VI. Speed Watch

SP to look at the speed sign, which is currently not functional.

### VII. Cycleway

Cllr Waite reported that there would be a meeting in the new year when the Waddesdon Cycle Way opened. The Consultant working on the project noted that the route was very close to being agreed. Cllr Waite noted that the time restriction on the funding meant that there would likely be a quick resolution. Cllr Waite agreed to invite Ben Feeney to the next meeting.

### VIII. Bucks Recycling

SL reported that there had been another noisy day, but the response from the manager had stated that the shredding had stopped at 10.30am. SL asked that Cllrs lodge complaints as residents, particularly as she can only record incidents on the days that she is home. SP reported that there was a liaison meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> February, and she would ask the Environment Agency to attend. Cllr Waite would ensure that there was a Bucks Council presence at the meeting. Cllr Waite suggested recording the frequency of incidents in order to set a bench-mark by which the company could be measured to show a reduction. SL stated that she would like to measure the decibel level and see what is permitted under the planning conditions. KR asked if many people had complained. SL stated that many hadn't because they felt it was futile. Cllr Waite suggested residents should use the Facebook page to log complaints.

### IX. Other

None.

## 97. Finance

Cllrs reviewed the accounts distributed by the Clerk up-to-the date of the meeting.

SP reported that £360 had been collected at the Christmas event.

SP proposed spending £40 on wine for the Seniors Lunch.

JH seconded.

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Cllrs agreed.

GP gave an invoice covering five years of software payments that he had made on behalf of the Council, which were to be reimbursed.

**98. Planning Matters**

23/03535/APP | New doors and window adjustments associated to internal alterations, along with the erection of a new storage unit | Building 1000 Westcott Venture Park Westcott Buckinghamshire  
Cllrs' Comments: Cllrs had no objection but asked for confirmation that the lighting schema would stay the same.

**99. Enhancements to the Green**

JH reported that the RFQ report is now finished and would be sent to BM with an updated plan, including the cable locations. BM to obtain quotes in time for February meeting.

**100. Burial Fees**

BM gave a report on the benchmarking exercise.

SP proposed to raise prices of burials in line with the Church of England's published prices, unless they are already more expensive, in which case they will remain the same, giving the following totals:

Stillborn child or child	nil
All other persons	£397
Cremated remains	£190
For the exclusive right of burial in perpetuity for selected site of grave	£794
For the exclusive right of burial of cremated remains	£380
For the right to erect or place a headstone on a grave	£166
For the right to place a recumbent tablet for cremated remains	£100
For each inscription on a memorial after the first	£40.00

JH Seconded

Cllrs Agreed

BM to amend documentation.

**101. Village Green – Tree Survey and Play Surface Update**

- Tree survey - BM reported that he had still not had the tree report from Devey and had chased.
- Playground Report – SP noted that the issues were mainly advisory, but had picked up the damaged soft-surface. The report also noted dog waste, but this is difficult to combat without erecting a complete fence.
- Wet-pour Play Surface repair/replacement – BM updated on conversations with wet-pour specialists, noting that Olcto had provided the best solutions and were keen to arrange a site visit during the week of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. GP suggested speaking to Wicksteed about alternative floor coverings. GP commented that some of the play equipment was looking tired and would soon need to be replaced. BM to go ahead with meeting with Olcto and speak to Berryfields clerk about their equipment.

**102. Streetlighting Upgrade**

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BM reported that the Council may be eligible for funding for having the streetlights converted to LEDs, and that EON were conducting a survey to gauge costs.  
SL to look at the light on Lower Green and report if it was working.

**103.** Dog Bins

SP Updated on the status of the dog bins, noting that she was waiting on a response from the contractor who would install them.

**104.** Seniors Christmas Lunch

SP reported that the lunch went well, with 23 attendees, noting that the food was very good but that the service was very slow, and this had been fed back to the centre.

**105.** Budget 24/25

BM presented the draft budget for 24/25. The Cllrs agreed to set the Precept at £15,149.

BM to tend for new mowing services prior to the February meeting.

**106.** Urgent matters of note

JH asked if there was any update on the Cricket Club Project. BM noted that he had emailed stating that they would need to submit a specific project for consideration.

KR stated that he was having an issue receiving emails. BM to check storage limits.

BM gave an update on the Action Tracker and Planning Tracker, and that he would be putting these on a password protected page on the website.

BM gave an update on the insurance position of covering the repairs to the wet pour.

**107.** Date of next meeting: Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 7.30pm.

**Part 1 of the meeting closed at 20:54**

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**Date Agreed:**

**Signed:**

**Position:** – Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor